THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir, there have been cases of theft of water meters in this colony.

(b) The NDMC have reported that there have been 94 such cases since 1981.

The DWS & SDU have reported that there have been about 58 such cases during the year 1984-85 and 4 complaints have so far been received during the current year.

Holding of typing test for appointing MC

†2927-C. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING be pleased

(a) whether it is a fact that a written test for the post of L.D.C./Typists was held in N.D.M.C. and on the basis of that test letters for typing test were issued in April, 1985;

(b) wheher the typing test scheduled to be held in April, 1985 was postponed;

(c) if so, by when the typing test is likely to be held;

(d) the number of candidates called for typing test and the number of vacancies to be filled up;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the candidates selected on the basis of earlier test are still to be appointed;

(f) if so, the number of such candidates; and

(g) the number of casual L.D.C./typists working there?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The NDMC have informed that the typing test will now be held after the ban on recruitment and filling up of vacant posts is lifted.

(d) 1286 candidates were called by NDMC for typing test. The number of available vacancies is 20 (approximately).

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(2) No casual LDCs/ typists are at present working with the NDMC.

Intrusion of foreign boats into Indian waters

†2927-D. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign boats chartered for high sea fishing are intruding into our defence installations area;

(b) whether it is also a fact that restrictions which was previously imposed on foreign boats that they could not enter within the 40 nautical miles of Indian waters has been withdrawn; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir. The Coast Guard monitors the operation of chartered vessels. As per rules, chartered fishing vessels are inspected by the Coast Guard authorities prior to commencing fishing operations. For security reasons chartered vessels are not allotted Bombay, Visakhapatnam and Port Blair as the base of operation. These vessels are required to operate beyond 24 nautical miles from the shore of islands like Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep and Minicoy; Bombay High and other off-shore installations.

†Previously Unstarred Question No. 2749, transferred from the 22nd August, 1985.

†Previously Unstarred Question No. 2762 transferred from the 22nd August 1985.